CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
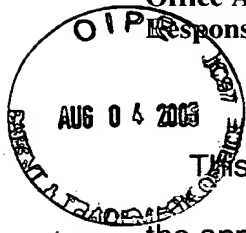Serial No.: 09/943,057
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PATENT
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus, comprising:

a modem, for receiving from a first medium a first transport stream having disposed therein packets associated with a second transport stream, said second transport stream packets being susceptible to timing errors;

a data control module, for adapting said second transport stream packets in a manner tending to reduce said timing errors, said data control module utilizing timing information recovered from at least one of said first transport stream and said second transport stream; and

a transport interface, for providing said packets associated with said second transport stream to a back-end device having a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) interface via a second non-PCI transport medium so as to bypass the PCI interface of the back-end device.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a router, for routing transport packets from said modem to said data control module.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an interface module for transferring data between said data control module and a computing device, said interface module tending to induce said timing errors within said packets associated with said second transport stream, said data control module operating to reduce said timing errors induced by said interface device module.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a back-end processing device, for receiving said packets associated with said second transport stream via said second transport medium.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a transport processor, for retrieving packetized elementary streams from said second transport stream propagated through said second transport medium.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising at least one elementary stream processing device, for processing retrieved packetized elementary streams provided by said transport processor.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said transport processor and each of said at least one elementary stream processors processing device is implemented by respective reduced instruction set (RISC) computing devices.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first transport stream comprises one of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) or internet protocol (IP) transport stream, said second transport stream comprises one of an MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4 and MPEG-7 transport stream.

9. (Currently Amended) A set top terminal (STT) having a front-end device for retrieving a first transport stream from an access network and delivery to a back-end device for processing audiovisual sub-streams included within said first transport stream to produce audiovisual signals suitable for presentation, said front-end device comprising:

a modem, for receiving said first transport stream from said access network, said first transport stream having disposed therein packets associated with a second transport stream, said second transport stream packets forming said audiovisual sub-streams and being susceptible to timing errors;

a data control module, for adapting said second transport stream packets in a manner tending to reduce said timing errors, said data control module utilizing timing information recovered from at least one of said first transport stream and said second transport stream; and

a transport interface, for providing said packets associated with said second transport stream to <u>a back-end device having a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) interface via</u> a second <u>non-PCI</u> transport medium <u>so as to bypass the PCI interface in the back-end device</u>.

10. (Original) The STT of claim 9, wherein said front-end device further comprises a router, for routing transport packets from said modem to said data control module.

11. (Original) The STT of claim 9, wherein said front-end device further comprises an interface module for transporting data between said data control module and a computing device, said interface module tending to induce said timing errors within said packets associated with said second transport stream.

12. (Original) The STT of claim 9, wherein said first transport stream comprises one of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) or internet protocol (IP) transport stream, and said second transport stream comprises one of an MPEG-1, MPEG-2, MPEG-4 and MPEG-7 transport stream.

13. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving, from a first medium, a first transport stream having disposed therein packets associated with a second transport stream, said first medium tending to impart jitter to said first transport stream;
extracting, from said first transport stream, those packets associated with said second transport stream;
adapting using timing information derived from at least one of said first and second transport streams said extracted packets in a manner tending to reduce said jitter; and
transmitting said adapted <u>extracted</u> packets<u>, to a back-end device having a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) interface,</u> via a second <u>non-PCI</u> medium <u>so as to bypass the PCI interface in the back-end device</u>.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said first transport stream corresponds to a first transport stream format and said second transport stream corresponds to a second transport stream format.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said first transport stream format comprises at least one of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) format and an Internet protocol (IP) format.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said second transport stream format comprises one of an MPEG1, MPEG2, MPEG4 and MPEG7 transport stream format.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the PCI interface of the back-end device is capable of receiving communications from said modem.

18. (New) The SST of claim 9, wherein the PCI interface of the back-end device is capable of receiving communications from said modem.

19. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the PCI interface of the back-end device is capable of receiving communications from said modem.